



ORANGE

Franklin County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Orange is an industrial and population center on the eastern boundary of Franklin County. The town was established in 1810, but settlers had been using the water power of the Millers River for manufacturing since the damming of the river in 1790. The community is made up of sections of Athol, Warwick, Royston and a tract of land called Ervinshire. It was named for William, Prince of Orange.

True to its industrial past, Orange was the site of the first automobile factory in the United States. The Historical Society maintains a 1904 Grout auto as an example of the kinds of cars built in Orange as well as a large pewter collection and antique musical instruments. Industrial products from Orange today include heavy machinery, precision tools, plastics and wood products. The Rodney Hunt Company, producing water control equipment, is one of the largest employers in Franklin County. Orange Airport Industrial Park provides a site for industrial expansion, while open lands offering camping and maple sugaring to visitors provide some rural character. In April, the annual River Rat Race brings hundreds of canoes and thousands of visitors to see winners cross the finish line in Orange.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

North central Massachusetts, bordered by Warwick on the northwest, Royalston on the northeast, Athol on the east, New Salem on the south, and Wendell and Erving on the west. Orange is 19 miles east of Greenfield; 46 miles north of Springfield; 75 miles northwest of Boston; 28 miles from Brattleboro, Vermont; and 180 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 36.00 sq. miles

Land Area: 35.38 sq. miles

Population: 7,312

Density: 207 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Tully Lake Station)

Normal temperature in January.....18.8°F

Normal temperature in July.....69.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....43.1"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Orange, Mt. Grace, Royalston, Athol

Regional Planning Agency

Franklin County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 544-2254

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1810

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	3,545		
Democrats	818	23.1	%
Republicans	653	18.4	%
Other parties	1	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	2,073	58.5	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Orange town, Franklin County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	7,518	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	7,518	100.0
Male.....	3,619	48.1	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	124	1.6
Female.....	3,899	51.9	Mexican.....	6	0.1
Under 5 years.....	414	5.5	Puerto Rican.....	91	1.2
5 to 9 years.....	552	7.3	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	671	8.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	27	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	549	7.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	7,394	98.4
20 to 24 years.....	362	4.8	White alone.....	7,166	95.3
25 to 34 years.....	841	11.2	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,290	17.2	Total population.....	7,518	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,098	14.6	In households.....	7,495	99.7
55 to 59 years.....	372	4.9	Householder.....	3,045	40.5
60 to 64 years.....	288	3.8	Spouse.....	1,449	19.3
65 to 74 years.....	551	7.3	Child.....	2,300	30.6
75 to 84 years.....	420	5.6	Own child under 18 years.....	1,833	24.4
85 years and over.....	110	1.5	Other relatives.....	256	3.4
Median age (years).....	38.0	(X)	Under 18 years.....	101	1.3
18 years and over.....	5,514	73.3	Nonrelatives.....	445	5.9
Male.....	2,576	34.3	Unmarried partner.....	253	3.4
Female.....	2,938	39.1	In group quarters.....	23	0.3
21 years and over.....	5,247	69.8	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	1,242	16.5	Noninstitutionalized population.....	23	0.3
65 years and over.....	1,081	14.4	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	437	5.8	Total households.....	3,045	100.0
Female.....	644	8.6	Family households (families).....	1,979	65.0
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	972	31.9
One race.....	7,417	98.7	Married-couple family.....	1,449	47.6
White.....	7,239	96.3	With own children under 18 years.....	613	20.1
Black or African American.....	80	1.1	Female householder, no husband present.....	399	12.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	17	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	275	9.0
Asian.....	36	0.5	Nonfamily households.....	1,066	35.0
Asian Indian.....	5	0.1	Householder living alone.....	873	28.7
Chinese.....	2	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	415	13.6
Filipino.....	3	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,044	34.3
Japanese.....	2	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	832	27.3
Korean.....	2	-	Average household size.....	2.46	(X)
Vietnamese.....	3	-	Average family size.....	3.02	(X)
Other Asian ¹	19	0.3	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-	Total housing units.....	3,303	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	3,045	92.2
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	1	-	Vacant housing units.....	258	7.8
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	67	2.0
Some other race.....	44	0.6	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	2.0	(X)
Two or more races.....	101	1.3	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	5.9	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	3,045	100.0
White.....	7,325	97.4	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,025	66.5
Black or African American.....	126	1.7	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,020	33.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	66	0.9	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.63	(X)
Asian.....	51	0.7	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.13	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-			
Some other race.....	59	0.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	64
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	45
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The major axes of transportation in Franklin County, where Orange is situated, are State Route 2, and Interstate Route 91, which follows the Connecticut River. The region is well-served by rail. The Springfield Terminal Railway (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) lines parallel the two major highways, and the Central Vermont Railway's main line passes N-S through the eastern portion.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S Route 202 and State Routes 2 and 78.

Rail

The Springfield Terminal Railway offers freight rail service. Contact number: (978) 663-1073

Bus

Orange is a member of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA). There is no fixed route service, but FRTA provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled through the Orange Council on Aging.

Other

The Orange Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located 1 mi SE of Orange, has 2 asphalt runways: 4,998'x 150' and 5,000'x 150'. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.